



# The Canal Zone Philatelist



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## President's Report

by Jim Crumpacker

Hooray! I'm outta here... figuratively, of course. All my departure as president of CZSG means is that now I am free to pound away at the typewriter keys leading, one hopes, to a modernized "Check List of Canal Zone Stamps" which will augment that presented in 1986 with the publication of *Canal Zone Stamps*.

Also, we wizened heads who have contributed to the "SPECIMENS" series of articles in the *Canal Zone Philatelist* over the past 10+ years may now find the will and organizational ability to get those issues listed in the proper catalogs.

My thanks to David Zemer as he takes office as our new president. The votes have not been tabulated as I write but David and new vice-president Howard Ballou are running unopposed; one feels safe in recognizing their election. Let us hope the new administration can revitalize some of our inactive committees and find a way to establish, organize, or contribute to a CZSG Library.

Our appreciation to the Nominating Committee of George Campbell, Irwin Gibbs, and David Leeds as chair for bringing fresh blood into the election for CZSG Officers and Board of Directors. We might have a 50% turnover in management as we enter the new year.

David's job will be made much easier by the fact that Tom Brougham, one of our long term and most philatelically knowledgeable members, has volunteered to run the 2004 Mail Sale, with Dick Salz coming in as able assistant in the San

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## The 1924 Panama Arms Issue

by Jim Cross

Panama had a great deal of difficulty establishing a definitive series of postage stamps. Upon their separation from Colombia on November 3, 1903, they inherited a large supply of American Bank Note Company produced map stamps with the COLOMBIA banner across the top. These they made do by overprinting, first with rubber stamps, then a printed bar across the top with PANAMA on both sides. This worked in Panama City and Colon where printing plants were available. The smaller towns and cities continued to make do with rubber stamps achieving the same purpose.

It was not until 1906, that a short-lived definitive set was produced by the Hamilton Bank Note Company. These were not entirely satisfactory even with trials of both soft and hard paper, and contained a number of engraving and printing flaws.

Three years later, in 1909 they reverted back to The American Bank Note Company for a full set of definitives that were sporadically available until the issue of the 1924 Coat of Arms set. This 15 years of usage was interspersed with stamps issued to commemorate several important events: the 400th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Pacific (1913), the Panama Exposition (1915-1920), the Centenary of Independence from Spain (1921), the 400th Anniversary of the City of Panama (1919), and the Hurtado commemorative (1921).

It was a welcome relief in May 1924 for postal users to be presented with

a set of 10 denominations of from ½ centesimo to one Balboa. The set, including booklets (prepared but not issued), was also to be used by the Canal Zone, with appropriate overprint. This article provides details. The set remained in use in Panama for many years – there were at least 30 reprintings of the 2c variety, satisfying a rate that persisted into the 1950s.

Since the issuance coincided with the abrogation of the Taft Agreement the Canal Zone accepted only the 1c and 2c varieties, even after all of the set, including the Canal Zone overprinted varieties, had been sent to the Universal Postal Union.

I collect and exhibit the two Canal Zone stamps of the 1924 Panama arms issue, Scott 68 and 69, as a part of an overall collection of that Panama stamp issue. I purchased the American Banknote Company production file from the estate of Dr. James B. Helme, who had purchased it in the original sale of that material.

The production file includes the original order for the stamps dated

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No larger advertisements are accepted. Remittance must accompany copy. Deadline for ads, first day of Mar., June, Sept., Dec. Copy should be sent to the Editor.

Back issues of the journal, handbooks, and other publications can be ordered from Richard F. Murphy, 501 Rosebud Lane, Greer, SC 29650.

Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Glossy photographs are desirable for figures of stamps or covers; however, enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds.

**Secretary's Report**

John C. Smith  
408 Redwood Ln.  
Schaumburg, IL 60193-2748

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP**

As of November 10, 2003, our membership stands at 699 members.

The 2004 dues notices have been mailed and you should have received your dues envelope before you read this. So please help your secretary by mailing in your dues as early as possible, along with any address change. It would be very helpful if you would enter your CZSG Number on your dues notice. A special field has been printed for this purpose. Your number is always on the address label to the right of your name, thank you.

It's 2004, an even numbered year, thus it's election time again. One difference this year is there are five members running for the Director positions, but only three can be elected, please check the three candidates of your choice. The other candidates are running unopposed. The election is required by your CZSG bylaws, even though there may be no competition. Thank you very much for your support!

Your CZSG officers wish you all a joyous Holiday Season and a fantas-

## CZSG 2003 Mail Sale Report by Jim Crumpacker

The recent CZSG mail Sale, our 31st such offering, concluded on Sept. 28th with 839 lots sold.

The total catalog/estimate value of the available material was very much lower than in previous years with the unsurprising result of a reduced total hammer value realized. The number of consignors was also way down.

"No bid" lots comprised an unusually high percentage of the total. As compensation, almost 106 of bidders were successful, far and away the best figure ever recorded.

From an analysis of the various category groupings, one learns that pre-cancels sold nicely with all but one lot selling above estimate. Postal stationery offered nice results for consignors, probably helped by interest created from the 2003 publication of *The Postal Stationery of the Canal Zone*, which was sent gratis to all of our members. In every category, very few of the damaged items drew a bid, per usual. Some basic issues such as an OG, H, VF #1 and a used, VF #2 sold for above catalog prices.

Shown below are some of the more interesting realizations. We have never had a buyer's commission at our CZSG Mail Sales so the first price shown represents the winner's total cost for a lot. The next value, given in parenthesis, is the 2003 value listing from the 2003 *Scott's Specialized Catalogue*.

1. OG, H, VF \$650 (\$550)

2. used, VF \$185 (\$175)

47, OG, HR, VG to F w/ paper fragments on gum, \$2050 (\$3250)

55c, horiz. pair, left stamp w/o overprint, OG, HR, F \$900 (\$1000)

84d, booklet pane of 6, OG, NH, VF \$180 (\$175)

C25a, horiz. pair, imperf. vert., OG, NH, F w/ usual diagonal gum crease \$1000 (\$1000)

U4 (UPSS 4) used Culebra 4/27/22 w/ typed Camp Gaillard ret., F-VF \$190 (\$125)

5, F-VF on cover Ancon 7/19/04 (early usage) F-VF to Panama \$130 (\$75)

C17, perf. "P", VF on OB envelope Balb. Hts. 6/22/40 \$290 (\$n/a)

## eBay Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

You might remember that I wrote up some Canal Zone lots off of eBay for our 50th Anniversary issue in 2002. With the passage of time more computer printouts have been obtained on a group of strange, scarce, or downright weird material from the same source and is here submitted for your enjoyment.

Less information is given about condition than would normally be expected. While many eBay sellers are sophisticated, some can be described as naive or, perhaps, disingenuous.

The price shown is "final bell" rounded up to the next dollar; all lots were offered July 2002 through Sept. 2003.

4 pair, 9 strip of three and 10 all on cover Crist. 12/24/04 to USA, some toning, F-VF \$133

41, 52, and 56 on U2 or U2a, bends of w F, CZ 1920 Regist. to Paris, \$60

112 and 114, pairs of both, on cover Albbrook AFB 7/17/79 Certified Mail to USA, \$88

C47, three copies on cover 1977 Crist. Regist. to Guatemala City, a crease, \$223

C14, used, F, s.e., w/ two PSN perfins, one tete beche, \$115

C10, perf. "P", on OB envelope w/ Diablo Hts. ret., Balb. Hts. 3/11/41 to Ohio, F, \$471

OX3, two copies, tied by Balb. cds. War Dept. OB env. missent via Fort Davis and Ancon, all Mar. 1942, raggedy, \$272

J18, used block of 47 stamps incl. the UL plate block w/ CANAL wrong font, also incl. 20 used copies of J20, former on some sort of wrapper, condition unknown, \$406

J26 block of four and J28 strip of three on rev. of cover from N. Vancouver, Canada w/ two 3c red George V Canadian stamps to CZ, cancelled Crist. 4/1/32, appears F, \$258

UX3, small tear and corner crease of w F-VF, Crist. 9/23 to USA, bears boxed marking "FORWARDED FROM TORO POINT 9/23/11", \$523

## Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

It has been feast or famine for Canal Zone material at public auction this year. The third quarter, July 1-Sept. 30, 2003 was no exception. Shreve's had a nice sale of Canal Zone lots in October, but we will save that auction for the next CZP. Meanwhile, here are a few samples from the meager third quarter offerings.

The first dollar amount shown is hammer plus commission and is followed by the catalog price, in parenthesis, from the 2003 *Scott's Specialized Catalogue*.

15, block of 4, OG, 2 NH, top pair w/ PANAMA's 15mm long, barely F to F+ \$6325 (\$11500) Manning

120-135 on 16 Crosby photo cachet covers, all FDC's, plus C15-20 on one National Cachet Society FDC, all VF \$311 (\$n/a) Regency

U15 (UPSS 37), mint entire, XF \$69 (\$250) Manning

UX5, used 7/13/21 Cristobal to NYC, VF, \$288 (\$450) Regency

Zeppelin flight, Cristobal 5/5/30 to Brunswick, Germany w/CZ C5 block of 10, but went via Havana through Seville instead of Lakehurst, then to Friedrichafen, F-VF w/ all proper transit- and receiving marks \$2128 (\$n/a) Rogers.

The names and addresses of these few auction houses are shown below.

**Greg Manning Galleries**  
775 Passaic Ave.  
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**Regency/Superior**  
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St. Louis, MO 63156-8277

**Michael Rogers, Inc.**  
199 E. Welbourne Ave., Suite 3  
Winter Park, FL 32789-4324

One of our lesser-known committees at the CZSG is the Election Committee. With all the new faces running for our various Officer and Board positions and "Election Committee" of Tom Brougham, Richard Fawcett, and Bob Karrer has been appointed in order to facilitate the election process.

**Jim Crumpacker**  
**President**



## 1924 Panama Arms Issue, Continued from page 33

May 28, 1923. It gave the size of the stamp as 23/32" wide and 7/8" high. Under general remarks it stated "this is a new regular issue. There will be 10 denominations, one design for all denominations, style left to you." In spite of this remark, the first two proposed designs were rejected. A single die proof of each rejected design exists. (Fig. 1.) They were in a separate lot in the Helme sale and I did not purchase them. They are illustrated courtesy of the present owner,



Fig. 1. Rejected Panama  
"Arms" Die proof.

Federico Brid.

A considerable period of time passed while the proposed designs were being prepared and reviewed and the requirement for 2c stamps for the Canal Zone became pressing. By the time a third design had been prepared and approved, it was necessary to omit one of the normal steps in the production process. There is artwork (called models by the printer) for nine of the ten denominations in the production file, but none for the 2 centesimos stamp. The contents listed on the jacket of the file confirms that only nine models existed. The artwork of the 50c is mounted on a larger card than the eight others, has a list of the other artwork and a note to the left of the artwork, which reads: "Make 2c die first. Great hurry for the above"

I believe what happened was that the die of the 2c was prepared from

artwork of another denomination. The printer numbered the dies sequentially with numbers prefixed with the letter "C" The 2c die has the lowest number of the set, C-1477. (Fig. 2.) The 1c die has the highest number C-1487. The engraving department cost card for the issue shows the 2c die was completed Nov. 5, 1923, approved on Nov. 9, 1923 and sent to the vault on Nov. 10, 1923. The card shows the die was worked on by Maple from Oct. 26, by Wilson on Nov. 5 and by Goggin on Nov. 9. Work on the other denominations did not begin until Nov. 22. The 1c was completed on Nov. 23 approved on Nov. 30 and was the last denomination sent to the vault on Dec. 4, 1923.

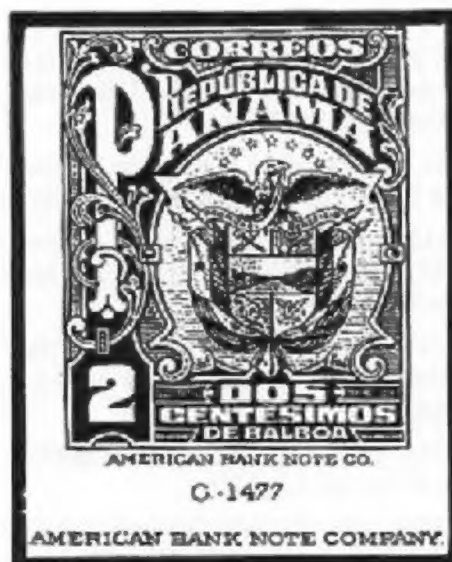


Fig. 2. Issued 2c Panama Arms  
ABNCo Die proof C-1477.

The production file did not contain any proofs of the setting used to overprint the stamps for use in the Canal Zone. Notes on the file jacket indicate that 14 printing plates were prepared. These include two for printing the stamps for the Canal Zone booklets. The final two probably were plates for printing the Canal Zone overprints on the stamps and on the booklets.

*Canal Zone Postage Stamps*, in 1961 gave the number of stamps sold as 24,153 of the 1c stamps and 370,240 of the 2c stamps. However, the editors of *Canal Zone Stamps* did not use these figures and estimated instead that 250,000 of the 1c stamps

and 510,000 of the 2c stamps were sold before they were taken off sale on July 1, 1924.

A total of 629,160 2c stamps were burned in 1937. I am inclined to believe the earlier figure. Adding the 600 specimen stamps furnished to Panama would give the total of 1,000,000 delivered. The shortage of earlier 2c stamps was acute and it is not unlikely that before the 2c arms stamps were received, there were no large stocks of the earlier stamps in any post office. If they were used up first, they were probably almost all gone by July 1. The 510,000 estimate would require 139,160 stamps of earlier issues to be among those destroyed in 1937.

The 24,153 figure for 1c sales in the earlier reference assumes that all 1c stamps burned in 1937 were arms stamps, while the 250,000 figure in *Canal Zone Stamps* apparently assumes that most 1c stamps sold after mid-February were arms stamps (June 1924 1c sales were 62,243). I think the most probable used number is somewhere between these two figures.

When I began the collection, I was fortunate to be able to purchase the Gary Weiss holding of covers with these stamps. I have added a few, but find they are not common in dealers stocks. I am interested in compiling a listing of known covers. From the numbers of stamps sold one might assume that the 2c stamp is more common on cover. However, this may not be the case. Addressees are more likely to keep post cards than covers. The list below shows the 15 items in my collection. These include three post cards with 1c postage, three post cards with 2c postage, seven covers from ordinary letters and two covers from registered mail.

The postal markings are identified from *The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone*, Second Edition and Addendum.

Post cards sent to the U.S. were often overfranked by using a 2c stamp. One of the overfranked post cards was mailed on February 14, 1924, the second earliest use of the 2c stamp recorded. The earliest was the previous day, but I do not have information

(Continued on next page)

about that cover.

One of the post cards was sent to Atahualpa, Peru. Post cards sent to Latin American countries are quite scarce and desirable items. (Fig. 3.)

The registered letter to Toledo, OH, is the only item I have with franking including stamps of other issues. Since the registration fee was 10c at the time, this is probably a double rate cover.

Three of the items were mailed in July 1924 during the original grace period. These include a philatelic cover mailed by W.L. Stilson with blocks of four of the two stamps and

sent from Balboa Hts. to his post office box in Cristobal. He mailed it on July 31, 1924, obviously intending it to be an example of the last day of use. However, the grace period for using stamps of this issue, in the hands of the public, was extended for another month. First, second and third notices were sent and then the cover was returned to Stilson in Balboa Hts. (Fig. 4.)

I do not have any covers from the extended grace period of August 1924. These may be quite scarce items. I do have a 2c cover mailed from Balboa Hts. to Panama on Nov. 7, 1924, af-

ter the issue was officially demonetized. The return address was the Office of the Departmental Inspector at the Headquarters of the Panama Department of the War Department at Quarry Heights. Possibly the post office did not want to offend that office by returning the cover for valid postage.

I invite anyone having postal history items franked with the Arms stamps to submit a list of them to be to be included in my census. You may send the data by e-mail to jimacross@cts.com. or by mail it to: Jim Cross, Box 2245, El Cajon CA 92021.



Fig.3. PC from Cristobal to Atahualpa Peru, June 5, 1924



Fig. 4. July 31, 1924 Reg. letter from Balboa Hgts., last day of use before grace period

### CZ 68 /69 on cover

Type	Stamp	Origin	Postmark	Date	Destination	Remarks
PC	69	Ancon	M-1	14 Feb 1924	New York NY	USA Panama cancel
Ltr	69	Cristobal	M-2	21 Feb 1924	Detroit MI	USA
PC	69	Cristobal	M-2	21 Feb 1924	Toronto ONT	CAN
PC	68	Ancon	M-1	7 Mar 1924	Buffalo NY	USA
Ltr	68 x 2	Gatun	Hs-11	10 Mar 1924	Cleveland OH	USA
Ltr	69	Gatun	Hs-11	15 Mar 1924	Chicago IL	USA
PC	68	Cristobal	M-2	23 Apr 1924	Boswell OK	USA
Ltr	69	Cristobal	Hs-11	15 May 1924	St. Louis MO	USA
PC	69	Balboa	Hs-11	19 May 1924	Fargo ND	USA
Reg	69,49	Ancon	Rg-7	5 Jun 1924	Toledo OH	USA, unlisted killer
PC	69	Cristobal	Hs-11	5 Jun 1924	Atahualpa	Peru
PC	68.1	Cristobal	M-2	1 Jul 1924	Woodhaven NY	USA 1st day grace period
Ltr	68 x 2	Cristobal	M-2	12 Jul 1924	Wilmington DE	USA
Reg	68 x 4, 69 x 4	Balboa Hts	Rg-20	31 Jul 1924	Cristobal CZ	RtM-1
Ltr	69	Balboa Hts	Hs-11	7 Nov 1924	Panama	Panama



# Return Receipt by Air from New York to the Canal Zone

By Dickson Preston

My special interest in Canal Zone collecting is the rates and uses of the permanent stamps issued from 1928 to 1979. I was thus delighted to find the card illustrated here franked with a 5 cent Globe and Wing airmail stamp which shows an unusual use (Fig. 1). This stamp was issued August 16, 1958 to pay the air mail post-card rate, which had increased to 5 cents on August 1st. This return card is an example of a specialized use of this rate, a return receipt card returned by air from the United States back to the sender in the Canal Zone.

A similar example franked with the 3 cent Gorgas Hospital stamp and 2 cent Roosevelt stamp is illustrated in Tom Brougham's "Canal Zone Domestic and Local Postal Rates and Fees", Part 3 (CZP 133, p. 38). Tom also has a return card postmarked April 15, 1958 showing the 4 cent air mail post card rate. I have not seen any Canal Zone documentation for these uses, but a look at two similar return cards from the United States mails, which are documented, will help elucidate them.

Return receipt cards returned by air within the United States domestic service are relatively scarce. Effective July 15, 1938, a mailer could have Form 3811, the return card, sent air mail by placing a 6 cent stamp on the form and adding "Return by Air Mail." Six cents was the prevailing domestic rate for air mail. There was

no reduced rate for air mail post cards before 1949, so return cards sent by air went at the rate for air mail letters<sup>1</sup>.

Beginning November 15, 1949, or possibly earlier in 1949, the extra fee was changed to coincide with the 4 cent air mail post card rate, which began January 1st of that year<sup>2</sup>. An example from 1954 shows a return card sent by air mail from a United States possession, Hawaii, to the United States mainland (Fig. 2). The fee paid was the 4 cent air mail post card rate, since that domestic rate also applied to air mail between the United States and its territories. Note that this fee was paid in addition to the registration and return receipt fees that would have been franked on the original cover.

An example of a United States return card sent by air from Guatemala in 1957 illustrates the same rule in international use (Fig. 3). Effective July 13, 1954, the sender of a letter to a U.P.U. country could obtain delivery of the return receipt by air mail by paying a fee equal to the air mail rate for a single post card to the destination country<sup>3</sup>. In this case, the fee paid is equal to the United States 10 cent air mail post card rate to any U.P.U. country, in effect June 1, 1954 to June 30, 1961. This procedure allowed the sender to pay the air mail postage in the sending country even though the air mail service was provided by the receiving country.

The Canal Zone return receipt card in Fig. 1, was sent in 1959 by air from New York back to the sender in Balboa. The procedures appear to parallel those seen on the example to Guatemala. In this case the sending country was the Canal Zone and the foreign country was the United States. The extra fee paid for the return receipt card by air was equal to the 5 cent air mail post card rate from the Canal Zone to the United States, in effect August 1, 1958 to January 6, 1963. Again, the postage is paid using a stamp of the sending postal administration, the Canal Zone, even though the air mail service was provided by the receiving administration, the United States.

Can anyone show some additional examples of Canal Zone return receipts sent by air mail? How about one from the 20 cent or 15 cent rate periods before the Canal Zone air mail rates to the United States were reduced to be the same as United States domestic rates? An example flown back from a foreign country other than the United States would also be really exciting.

<sup>1</sup>Beecher and Wawrukiewicz, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1993, 1st edition, p. 197.

<sup>2</sup>Domestic Rates, p. 197.

<sup>3</sup>Beecher and Wawrukiewicz, U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872-1996, p. 235.

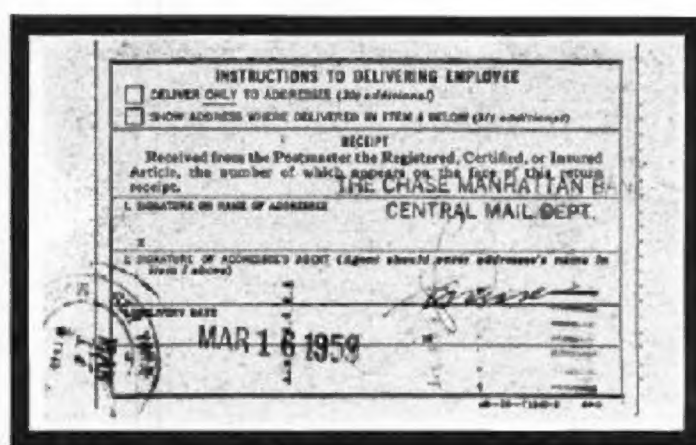


Fig. 1. Return receipt card returned by air from the U. S. to the Canal Zone in 1959. The extra fee paid to return the card by air is equal to the Canal Zone 5 cent rate for air mail post cards to the U. S.

(Continued on next page)

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